



INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Thursday, December 1, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – South Palm Wash

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a hike up a wash, then into a beautiful slot canyon up to a 20-25 foot dry waterfall. There is a rockfall about 100 meters before the waterfall that can be negotiated by those who choose. Meet at the overlook at mile marker 38 on S22 (at the phone call box near the Calcite Mine) for this moderate 4-mile hike.

Friday, December 2, 2016

2:30 p.m. Walk – Panoramic Overlook

2.5 Hours

Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Visitor Center to walk across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail for good views of the Borrego Valley and Font's Point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring at least one liter of water and a flashlight.

Saturday, December 3, 2016

7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

1.5 Hours



Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

9:00 a.m. Social Hike – Hikes & Hops at Travertine Palms

4 Hours



Join us on a 5-mile adventure to one of the lesser-known and lesser-visited palm groves in ABDSP- Travertine Palms. This palm grove is located in the far northeastern corner of the Park, near the community of Desert Shores, CA. The fee is \$20 for the Public/\$15 for ABF Members. Visit www.theabf.org/events or call Ashley for more details and to register: 760-767-0446 Ext. 1003.

12:00p.m. Hike–Discovering the Archaeological History of the 'Ehmuu Morteros

2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near Mile Marker 23).

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

Special program for children ages 7-12 only. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

UNLESS NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER
(OPEN DAILY 9 AM to 5 PM) ♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.



INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Saturday, December 3, 2016 (continued)

7:30 p.m. Campfire Program & – Getting the “Bad” Out of the Badlands

1 Hour

Join Ranger Mike at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for an evening campfire program to explore the Badlands. Find out why the Badlands aren't so bad.

Sunday, December 4, 2016

9:00 a.m. Ranger Hike – Walking Phantom Trails

3 Hours

Join Ranger Heidi for a hike on the Pictograph Trail to learn about the intertwining history of the tribes, DeAnza and us.

10:00 a.m. Talk & – In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree

30 Min.

The seldom-seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued them, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

Monday, December 5, 2016

11:00 a.m. Bikes & Brews Bike Ride – Blair Valley

3 Hours



Join us for a 12-mile mountain bike ride in beautiful Blair Valley. This moderate route will take us into Little Blair Valley Cultural Preserve and past some of the most popular trail heads in the area. Fee is \$20 Public / \$15 ABF Members. Visit www.theabf.org/events or call Ashley for more details and to register: 760-767-0446 Ext. 1003.

Tuesday, December 6, 2016

8:30 a.m. Hike - Weekly Members Hike

3.5 Hours



Meet at the State Park Store in the Mall. Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. These hikes take you to little-known but easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park as a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Visit www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes or call 760-767-0446 ext. 1003 for more information. No advance registration required.

Thursday, December 8, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – Cool Canyon

4 Hours

Join Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a cool trip up Cool Canyon. We'll hike up many dry falls in the higher country where the flora is different from that of the desert floor. Meet at the intersection of County Highway S-2 and the first dirt road to the west, south of the Park boundary sign just beyond Shelter Valley. Four-wheel drive is not required. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Thursday, December 8, 2016 (continued)

2:30 p.m. Walk – Panoramic Overlook

2.5 Hours

Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Visitor Center to walk across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail for good views of the Borrego Valley and Font's Point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring at least one liter of water and a flashlight.

Friday, December 9, 2016

10:00 a.m. Talk & – Paleontology Lecture

2 Hours

Join the Paleontology Society for their monthly lecture series. Open to the public. Meet in the Discovery Lab at the Visitor Center.

4:00 p.m. Walk & – Let's Be "Crepuscular"!

1 Hour

You probably know "Nocturnal", maybe even "Diurnal" animals. Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and the night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Friday & Saturday, December 9-10, 2016

Education Program – *Anza-Borrego: In Focus- Wilderness & Enlightenment*

2 Days



This program will explore western perceptions of desert environments, from Biblical sojourns and monastic ascetics to the incorporation of desert into the American landscape. We will consider how this setting was perceived, the ways it was valued (and not valued), and the technological and historical changes that made a grand cultural transformation possible in the twentieth century. Fee is \$60 Public / \$50 ABF Members. Visit www.theABF.org/events or call 760-767-0446 Ext. 1004 for more information and to register.

Saturday, December 10, 2016

10:00 a.m. Walk & - Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

12:00 p.m. Hike–Discovering the Archaeological History of the 'Ehmuu Morteros

2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near Mile Marker 23).

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Saturday, December 10, 2016 (continued)

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

Special program for children ages 7-12 only. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

7:30 p.m. Campfire ♿ – Animal Songs

45 Min.

Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a lighthearted look at the sounds some of the Park animals make. You'll leave this 45-minute program with new appreciation for some of the Park animals and a song in your heart! Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 11, 2016

9:00 a.m. Walk/4WD – Roving Ranger

1 Hour

Meet Roving Ranger Steve at the Red Cliffs to learn and share in some of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's extraordinary backcountry locations. We will Speak of Ancient Voices, sift through stories in stone, and seek the Wild in wildlife. Note: High Clearance 4x4 recommended. Meet 1.5 miles into Fish Creek, just past Fish Creek Primitive Camp.

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Murders and Unkindnesses

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Jeff Salton to discover the remarkable differences between Crows and Ravens and explore some of the mystery and intrigue in the world of birds.



Monday, December 12, 2016

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Botany Lecture

1 Hour

Join the Botany Society for their monthly lecture series in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab. Mike Wilken will speak on his research and findings of "Ethnobotany and Prehistoric Lifeways of the Kumeyaay" in Baja California and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Visitors are welcome.

Tuesday, December 13, 2016



8:30 a.m. Hike - Weekly Members Hike

3.5 Hours

Meet at the State Park Store in the Mall. Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. These hikes take you to little-known but easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park as a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Visit www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes or call 760-767-0446 ext. 1003 for more information. No advance registration required.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

4:30 p.m. Talk - Moon Features Come Alive

1 Hour

Come inside the Visitor Center for a demonstration of the reason we see the shape of the moon change each month and learn about the features that make the “Man in the Moon.” Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for this interactive program in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab.

5:30 p.m. Talk - The Moon Rises!

1 Hour

Watch the sky during the hour of the Moon’s rising. Bring out your lawn chair, binoculars and a red-filtered flashlight and meet on the Visitor Center Roof, the “Bridge”, for star and moon gazing. Dress warmly for welcoming this month’s moon.



Thursday, December 15, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – Squeeze through the Slot

3 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a moderate 3-mile roundtrip hike through a winding slot canyon with rugged walls and overhanging rocks. You will have to negotiate some tight squeezes and a short climb up a very steep hill. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at Buttes Pass Road, 1.5 miles east of Borrego Springs Road on Highway 78.

9:30 a.m. Talk/Walk – Beaks and Feet: Birding Made Simple

1 Hour

If you’ve always wanted to learn about birds but thought it’s too complicated and only for birding experts, you’ll enjoy this simple way of appreciating the birds! Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for this hands-on discovery session and get a close look at birds in and around the Visitor Center. For bird lovers 8 years old and up with no previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.

Friday, December 16, 2016

6:30 p.m. Talk - Moon Features Come Alive


1 Hour

Come inside the Visitor Center for a demonstration of the reason we see the shape of the moon change each month and learn about the features that make the “Man in the Moon.” Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for this interactive program in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab.

7:30 p.m. Talk - The Moon Rises!

1 Hour

Watch the sky during the hour of the Moon’s rising. Bring out your lawn chair, binoculars and a red-filtered flashlight and meet on the Visitor Center Roof, the “Bridge”, for star and moon gazing. Dress warmly for welcoming this month’s moon.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Saturday, December 17, 2016

6:00 a.m. – Strenuous Hike – Mike’s Hikes to Indian Head Peak

10 Hours



Arguably the most iconic peak in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Indian Head looms above the town of Borrego Springs, giving character to the ridgeline. This hike is for very advanced hikers capable of traversing steep off-trail routes on loose footing while dodging the ever-present agave and cholla.

Indian Head is a steep, 8-mile, off trail adventure that is not for the casual adventurer. You must register in advance for this program, no exceptions. Go to www.theABF.org/5hikes or call 760-767-0446 Ext 1003.

7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.



10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree

30 Min.

The seldom-seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued them, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Geology for Creative Thinkers

1 Hour

Explore the basic rock types found in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the geologic processes that shaped them in a fun, hands-on way that makes geology come alive! Join Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, at the Park Visitor Center for a rockin’ good time with rocks! No previous geology vocabulary is necessary.

1:00 p.m. Talk – Coffee with a Ranger

1 Hour

Join the only CA State Park pilot, Ranger Josh, for a special presentation about his responsibilities and see the plane up close. The program will be conducted at the Borrego Springs Airport. Meet him at the airport office.

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

Special program for children ages 7-12 only. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Saturday, December 17, 2016 (continued)

3:00 p.m. Talk - Mystery Cat: Anza-Borrego's Elusive Mountain Lion

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Don Endicott for a 45-minute multi-media introduction to the natural history of the Park's seldom seen apex predator. Don's talk will describe the amazing attributes and signature behaviors of our big cats, show how relationships between Mountain Lions and people changed over time, and outline their key contributions to a healthy wilderness environment. Meet in the Discovery Lab at the Visitor Center



7:30 p.m. – Enjoy Anza-Borrego's Dark Night Sky!

1 Hour

Winter nights are perfect for Stargazing. Explore constellations and learn about the importance of dark skies everywhere. Bring binoculars if you have them, flashlight (red lens is preferable) and your imagination! Look for Sally Theriault, Park Interpreter at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.

Sunday, December 18, 2016

9:00 a.m. Ranger Walk – Bill Kenyon Trail

2 Hours

Join Ranger Carina on a walk on uneven ground to a beautiful desert overlook. Meet at Yaqui Pass Campground, on Highway S-3, 1 mile north of Tamarisk Grove Campground. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring water.




Tuesday, December 20, 2016



8:30 a.m. Hike - Weekly Members Hike

3.5 Hours

Meet at the State Park Store in the Mall. Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. These hikes take you to little-known but easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park as a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Visit www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes or call 760-767-0446 ext. 1003 for more information. No advance registration required.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Rainbow Any Day

1 Hour

Even when it's not raining, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a unique view of the desert near the Visitor Center, exploring how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet at the Visitor Center.

3:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Let's Be "Crepuscular"!

1 Hour

You probably know "Nocturnal", maybe even "Diurnal" animals. Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and the night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Thursday, December 22, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike - Hornblende Canyon

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund on a moderate hike in Hornblende Canyon. We'll check out wildflowers along the way as we enjoy one of the most beautiful but overlooked canyons in the Park. Bring hiking stick(s), ample water, hiking boots and lunch. Meet at entrance to Blair Valley at 9am. Hike is about 4 miles.

11:00 a.m. Walk - Gifts Under the Trees

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for the many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center Garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

3:00 p.m. Walk ♿ - Desert Inspiration

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist for a sensory exploration of the desert in words and color to nourish your connection with the rugged beauty of the desert. This hands-on experience makes it surprisingly easy to enhance your enjoyment of the desert. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

Friday, December 23, 2016

11:00 a.m. Talk/Walk ♿ – Beaks and Feet: Birding Made Simple

1 Hour

If you've always wanted to learn about birds but thought it's too complicated and only for birding experts, you'll enjoy this simple way of appreciating the birds! Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for this hands-on discovery session and get a close look at birds in and around the Visitor Center. For bird lovers 8 years old and up with no previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.



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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER 2016

Friday, December 23, 2016 (continued)

2:30 p.m. Walk – Panoramic Overlook

2.5 Hours

Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Visitor Center to walk across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail for good views of the Borrego Valley and Font's Point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring at least one liter of water and a flashlight.

Saturday, December 24, 2016

11:00 a.m. Walk - Gifts Under the Trees

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for the many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center Garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

Special program for children ages 7-12 only. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

7:30 p.m. Evening Ranger Program

1 Hour

Join Ranger Lauren for a program all about Tarantulas. Meet her at Arroyo Salado Primitive Camp.

Tuesday, December 27, 2016



8:30 a.m. Hike - Weekly Members Hike

3.5 Hours

Meet at the State Park Store in the Mall. Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. These hikes take you to little-known but easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park as a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Visit www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes or call 760-767-0446 ext. 1003 for more information. No advance registration required.

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

1:00 p.m. Walk - Gifts Under the Trees

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for the many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center Garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

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Thursday, December 29, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – Pictographs – What Were They Trying to Say?

2.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund on a moderate 3-mile roundtrip hike through a beautiful desert valley to a panoramic overlook. Along the way, we will look at some interesting plants, morteros and rock art. Meet at the entrance to Blair Valley, about a 45 minute drive from the Visitor Center.

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Rainbow Any Day

1 Hour

Even when it's not raining, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a unique view of the desert near the Visitor Center, exploring how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet at the Visitor Center.

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

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3:30 p.m. Talk/Walk ♿ – Beaks and Feet: Birding Made Simple

1 Hour

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Friday, December 30, 2016

11:00 a.m. Walk – Gifts Under the Trees

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a free-spirited search for the many delightful surprises that Nature has left under the desert trees in the Visitor Center Garden. Awaken your sense of wonder and sharpen your skills of observation in some holiday fun! Meet outside the Visitor Center.

2:00 p.m. ♿ – Junior Rangers

1 Hour

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3:30 p.m. Walk ♿ – Let's Be "Crepuscular"!

1 Hour

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2016

Saturday, December 31, 2016

7:30 a.m. Walk - Bird Walk

1.5 Hours



Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

10:00 a.m. Walk ♿ - Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

2:00 p.m. ♿ - Junior Rangers

1 Hour

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3:30 p.m. Walk ♿ -Desert Inspiration

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist for a sensory exploration of the desert in words and color to nourish your connection with the rugged beauty of the desert. This hands-on experience makes it surprisingly easy to enhance your enjoyment of the desert. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

7:30 p.m. Talk – New Year’s Eve Stargazing!

1.5 Hours

What better way to say Farewell to 2016 than gazing at the heavens? Join State Park Interpreter Sally Theriault to explore constellations and learn about the importance of dark skies everywhere. Bring warm clothing, binoculars if you have them, and a flashlight (red lens is preferable to preserve our night vision). Telescope viewing if weather permits. Meet at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campground Amphitheater to ring in the New Year (“Borrego Midnight” is 9 p.m.).



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Plan to join an interpreter on Sunday, January 1 for a celebratory hike to Welcome 2017! Check at the Visitor Center for meeting times and places.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES DECEMBER 2016

DESERT SAFETY

✓ **Carry water AND drink it**

Saving your water for the hike back has led to death in Anza-Borrego. Drink plenty of water before you leave home, while you hike, and on the return route. If you feel thirsty, it is already too late. Drink lots of water and drink often.

✓ **Make sure your vehicle is desert-ready.**

Equip your vehicle for the desert. You should always carry extra water, a shade tarp, a shovel, a tire pump, and extra food.

✓ **Prepare yourself.**

In addition to carrying water, you should have protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat, a good map, food and a first aid kit which includes a comb and tweezers.

✓ **Do not split up the group**

Stay together. Never leave anyone behind to rest.

✓ **Have a plan.**

Leave all your trip information with a friend. Tell him/her your destination, the route you intend to follow, your expected return time, a description of your vehicle with license plate number, and the time by which he/she should notify park authorities in case you do not return.

✓ **Leave snakes alone.**

Many venomous snakes live in the desert. If you threaten them, they may strike. It is illegal to harass, catch, or kill any snake within Anza-Borrego. If bitten, remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.

✓ **When emergencies happen:**

Stop. Stay calm. Seek shelter. If you are with your vehicle, remain there; do not leave it. Signal with mirrors, white cloth, whistle (three short blasts on a whistle, pause, then three more, repeat frequently), and put your hood up. It is much easier to find a vehicle in the desert than a person!!!

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